WSU Vancouver is full-up on Fulbrights

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Dear Friends of WSU Vancouver,

Welcome to the first edition of NW Crimson & Gray. I hope you will look forward to receiving this magazine twice a year. You can count on us to pack the pages with interesting and engaging articles about our areas of mission: education, research and community, our faculty and staff, our students and our alumni. We will keep you up-to-date on the latest news from the WSU Vancouver campus.

In this edition I am proud to point you to the cover article featuring four WSU Vancouver faculty members who have received Fulbright scholarships and are currently working in foreign countries sharing their gifts and talents. These four individuals are representative of the world-class faculty who teach and conduct research here on campus and who prepare our students for life after graduation.

I invite you to sit back, relax and lose yourself in the pages contained here. When you have finished, please feel free to offer your feedback and suggestions for the next edition. You can e-mail your comments to our editor, Brenda Alling, at brenda_alling@vancouver.wsu.edu.

Best regards,

H.A. (Hal) Dengerink
Chancellor
Web 2.0, mobile apps, Wii, Twitter feed, smart phones—none of these technologies existed in 1997 when the Electronic Media and Culture (EMC) program was founded at Washington State University Vancouver.

With the introduction of the Mosaic and Netscape browsers in the early 1990s and the rising popularity of chat rooms, bulletin boards and e-mail, administrators and faculty at WSU Vancouver anticipated the need to offer an interdisciplinary course of study with a liberal-arts focus that encompassed digital technology.

For Tim Hunt, associate dean at that time, Leslie Wykoff, library director and Hal Dengerink, chancellor, computers had rapidly become a key factor in the way language was produced and shared. In fact, they viewed computer-based communications as more than just electronic versions of print and other established media. For them, electronic media were multimedia forms of fundamentally new technologies of language and communication that had the potential not only to help change how society is organized and functions, but how we think.

“By 1997 my profession already had been using computers for 25 years, and they were changing everything! Tim, a former English professor, Hal, a former psychology professor and I thought it was high time for liberal arts to develop a program that would examine computer technology’s impact on the culture and prepare its majors with skills for the digital age,” said Wykoff.

From electronic media to digital technology

With the growth of digital media in the last decade, not to mention the development of more than 1,700 high-tech companies in the region, the EMC became a popular program—so popular that in 2003 it was officially made a major within the Washington State University system, spreading from its home base in Vancouver to the Pullman campus. It is one of the only programs to have been founded at WSU Vancouver and adopted at the other WSU campuses—a mark of distinction WSU Vancouver is proud of.

The EMC was renamed the Digital Technology and Culture (DTC) program to better reflect the growing awareness of all things digital. Led by its first director, the late Michelle Kendrick, the program flourished. With concentrations of study in media authoring, informatics, technology and culture, enrollment continued to build. When Dene Grigar, Ph.D., was hired as program director in 2006, 77 students were enrolled to take the four courses offered in the program. Fast forward to spring 2010: 178 students were registered for 14 sections of courses representing a 130 percent increase in enrollment in just four years.

Between 2006 and 2010, Grigar implemented many innovations in the DTC program. The DTC Artist-in-Residency
program (ARS) was introduced. It brought artists from Canada, the U.K., Brazil and the U.S. to teach 3D animation, sensor-based art, game development and multimedia performance. In 2009 and 2010, students who studied with these artists went on to win the Undergraduate Research Award at WSU Vancouver’s Research Showcase and were invited to exhibit their projects at the showcase in Pullman.

Also under Grigar’s direction, the Senior Seminar, with a focus on civic engagement and service to the community, became a hallmark of the DTC program. Taken the last year before graduating, students in this course have created websites for non-profit organizations such as the Columbia River Economic Development Council, Open House Ministries, the Boys and Girls Club, Battle Ground Public Schools and the Alexa Dyer Foundation. They have produced videos for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and the Hough Foundation. Senior students created a 3D fly-through of downtown Vancouver for the Downtown Association and 2D animations for the Clark County Fire Department. They also wrote a social media policy for the Port of Vancouver USA.

“The outreach into our community from Dene Grigar and the DTC program over the past three years has been unbelievable. Dene has developed a program that allows very bright, engaging students to provide products and services to organizations that result in critical technology advancements. These organizations cannot afford and do not have the skill or vision to do this on their own. WSU Vancouver, social media and the DTC program have become the buzz around our civic community and beyond,” said Scott Milam, principal at Milam-Imse Consulting, who has worked with the DTC program on several community projects.

DTC began offering a Special Topics course to provide students with the opportunity to stay at the forefront of digital technology by covering subject matter such as social media, community media, video production and electronic archiving and curating.

DTC faculty members have also become involved in community projects, such as Brett Oppegaard’s Fort Vancouver Mobile Project. Oppegaard won a grant from the Clark County Commissioners to support the development of mobile apps to be used at the Fort Vancouver National Historical Site. John Barber, Ph.D., is working to move the library associated with Washington-native writer Richard Brautigan to the Clark County Historical Museum.

“These nationally acclaimed, digitally based research projects fit well into the mission of a Tier 1 Research University and go far in supporting our community. These are the kinds of projects the program nurtures and encourages,” said Grigar.

The DTC program received international attention in 2008 with the Electronic Literature Organization conference when 121 artists and scholars from 17 countries and five continents converged on the WSU Vancouver campus to talk about digital storytelling and e-poetry. That same year a Fulbright scholar from Ukraine arrived to study with Barber.

**From digital technology to creative media**

Once again, the growth of the program predicated change. On April 15, 2010 the WSU Faculty Senate voted to make the DTC program an independent unit on the Vancouver campus (it had previously been housed under the English department), and changed the DTC program’s name to Creative Media and Digital Culture (CMDC). While the name of the program has changed, the name of the degree has not. CMDC will be the home of the DTC degree.

“CMDC is a cross-disciplinary program that is positioned at the intersection of the liberal arts and more technology-intensive fields, such as engineering and computer science. WSU Vancouver—which prides itself on being academically innovative and engaged with the community—is the perfect home for this cutting-edge program,” said Amy Wharton, director of the College of Liberal Arts.

CMDC anticipates hiring two new tenure-track faculty members for the 2010/2011 academic year. Plans for a special summer curriculum in humanities gaming are also in the works. A travel-abroad program to Brazil that offers students an opportunity to study digital media from an international perspective is in the planning stages.

Thirteen years and two names later, CMDC is born. From its roots in electronic media, to its shift to digital technology, to its focus on creative media, the program encourages students to become leaders in the development of media, to imagine and invent digital media that does not yet exist, and to understand their potential impact upon the people and cultures for which they are made and by which they will be used.

The CMDC program at WSU Vancouver envisions graduating students who will take roles in the community as entrepreneurs, project managers, designers, programmers, content strategists, media producers and analysts—and in doing so, create new knowledge and jobs. And the heart of the program remains its focus on civic engagement and service to the community as the center of each student’s education.
WSU Vancouver Offers Two New Bachelor’s Degrees This Fall

The College of Liberal Arts at Washington State University Vancouver began offering two new bachelor’s degrees this fall—a bachelor of arts in history and a bachelor of arts in sociology.

The two new degrees have been approved by the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Washington State University Board of Regents will review the new degrees and take action later in the year.

For students who want to understand how our lives are shaped by the past, including those who are interested in careers in teaching, museums and interpretive sites, libraries, government and law, the bachelor of arts in history will offer a solid foundation.

“My favorite definition of history is this: ‘History is a story we tell ourselves about who we are.’ We don’t really know who ‘we’ are—the great ‘we’ of humanity—until we understand how we got here,” said Sue Peabody, associate chair in the department of history. “Through our program, students will develop the deep research, critical thinking and writing skills that will serve them in their careers and in their lives. But history is so much more! As our history graduates enter the workforce, the wider community will benefit from an engaged citizenry who understands how we got here and cares about making a difference.”

Sociology is a popular and growing major. Data on incoming freshmen at WSU Vancouver reveal that a social science degree is among the top four areas of student interest. This is consistent with national trends. According to the American Sociological Association, the number of students nationwide pursuing a degree in sociology has been rising steadily since the 1980s. At WSU Pullman, the number of bachelor’s degrees earned in sociology has risen by one third over the past five years.

WSU Vancouver’s sociology curriculum will provide students with an understanding of what makes individuals and groups of people behave the way they do. It will enhance students’ critical thinking and communications skills and provide training in methods and statistics. These skills are useful in a wide range of careers including public relations, teaching and positions in government, social agencies and industry.

“In today’s changing job market, the skills provided by a liberal arts education are increasingly important. In the past, college graduates took a job and were likely to stay there for most of their career. Now students change jobs many times in the years following graduation and throughout their lives. Indeed, most people not only change jobs, but make multiple career changes,” said Amy S. Wharton, director of the College of Liberal Arts. “It is important to have skills that can transfer to different settings, including the ability to analyze problems, develop solutions and understand different kinds of people. A sociology degree provides students with these capabilities.”
A crane looming over a skeletal structure at Washington State University Vancouver is a sign of progress. It represents construction of the new Engineering and Computer Science building expected to open for fall of 2011.

The $43.5 million, 56,000-square-foot, four-story building formerly referred to as the Applied Technology Classroom building will include high-tech laboratories and classrooms. This teaching and research facility will prepare students to meet the employment needs of high-demand fields in Southwest Washington, such as computer science and engineering. It will also be home to the undergraduate electrical engineering program.

“The School of Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS) has been growing steadily since its establishment in 2004. This new building will expand our operations and accelerate our growth even more. The new state-of-the-art laboratories
will provide the much-needed support for our new electrical engineering program. They will also enable advanced high-tech research,” said Hakan Gurocak, director of the School of Engineering and Computer Science at WSU Vancouver.

“The building is planned to provide a higher level of training for local engineering students and, in turn, a local, skilled workforce for that industry,” said Dave Smith, director of capital planning.

The Engineering and Computer Science building will offer faculty and students multiple computer science and engineering technical spaces, radio frequency and power-distribution labs, and a suite of “clean rooms” with standardized air-quality conditions.

“Outside of actual manufacturing plants in the private sector, there are no facilities like the clean room suites available in Southwest Washington,” said Smith. “They will allow for nanotechnology and microscale electronics projects—areas that require a high level of precision and environmental control.”

Flexibility is key to the design of the Engineering and Computer Science building. Part of the driver for flexibility is the ever-changing nature of technology. In five or six years when technology in the Engineering and Computer Science building needs to be upgraded, the building must be able to accommodate it. The other reason for flexibility is that a portion of the Engineering and Computer Science building will be reserved for general university use. Even the general classrooms will feature “smart” technologies that could include computer interface, flat-panel TVs, interactive whiteboards and displays, multimedia projectors, projection screens or even audio projection.

The Engineering and Computer Science building was the only new building in the WSU system that was funded by the State Legislature for the 2009-2011 biennium.

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WSU Vancouver is Salmon-Safe

Founded in 2001 by Pacific Rivers Council, Salmon-Safe is a non-profit organization based in Portland, Ore. that works to keep urban and agricultural water-sheds clean enough for native salmon to spawn and thrive.

Salmon-Safe offers the nation’s first and only peer-reviewed certification program linking corporate or university land management practices with the protection of urban watersheds. Salmon-Safe certification requires management practices that reduce storm water run-off and non-point source pollution, helping to protect Pacific Northwest salmon watersheds.

WSU Vancouver is certified Salmon-Safe.

Top Projects

A celebration of building and development

WSU Vancouver welcomes the Top Projects & Building Excellence Reception & Award Presentation to campus Sept. 16. More than 400 guests are expected to visit campus for the event.

This is the first time two of Southwest Washington’s most prestigious building and development recognition programs are being combined into a single event.

Top Projects will recognize construction development projects in three categories: commercial development, residential development and public works.

The Building Excellence awards are conferred by a jury of building industry experts and awarded based on a pre-established set of criteria. Building Excellence will also recognize landscaping projects.

At the end of the evening, one of the award winners will be selected as TOP PROJECT for 2010.
The word “spider” conjures up a picture—typically not a pretty one. When Stephen Spielberg’s movie “Raiders of the Lost Ark” opens, the hero, Indiana Jones, is brushing aside a web taller than a man as he is assaulted by giant arachnids. Movie viewers flinch no matter how many times they’ve seen the 1981 classic. In books and movies and later in our nightmares, spiders are villains.

This is not the case at Washington State University Vancouver. Quite unlike the Indiana Jones experience, WSU Vancouver spiders have become friends—intelligent friends who warn of impending danger.

The friendly three-legged spiders have a body about the size and shape of a microwave oven. On the outside, they are hardware developed by the U.S. Geological Survey’s (USGS) Cascades Volcano Observatory. On the inside, their intelligence is powered by software written at WSU Vancouver.

The sensor network software is the brainchild of Wen-Zhan Song, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science in the School of Engineering and Computer Science and director of the Sensorweb Research Laboratory. He and his team of researchers are developing sensorweb software to achieve their mission of transforming information acquisition and ambient intelligence paradigms.

In Song’s research laboratory, a sensorweb is defined as a coordinated observation infrastructure made of a distributed collection of resources. Picture a wide range of information providers—RADAR, satellite feeds, thermometers, models, human reports... Sensorweb software gets this collection of resources to behave as a single, task-able, dynamically adaptive and reconfigurable observing system. The end product is data—data that might save a life.

“Our research is motivated by the needs of real-time and situation-aware information gathering from unattended environments and effective information sharing over the Internet,” said Song. That’s exactly what led to using Mount St. Helens as a test case.
Song assembled a multidisciplinary team of researchers from NASA, USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory and Washington State University Pullman to develop a system to remotely monitor geological activity at the volcano.

On July 14, 2009, 15 spider sensors were dropped by helicopter inside and around the mouth of Mount St. Helens, one of the most active volcanoes in the United States. These 15 spider sensors form a wireless network that blankets the mountain. The spider sensors communicate with each other and the Earth Observing-1 (EO-1) satellite operated by NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. The ground component and the space component work in unison and effect each other’s decisions.

Each spider sensor contains a seismometer to detect earthquakes; a GPS receiver to pinpoint the exact location and measure subtle ground deformation; an infrared sounder to sense volcanic explosions; and a lightning detector to search for ash cloud formation.

“The sensors have the ability to recognize different kinds of events—seismic events, earthquakes—things that are indications of something happening at the volcano. We can detect the differences between snow falling off a branch, an animal running by, wind, a thunderstorm, and the very subtle signature of magma running at depth, perhaps even kilometers below the surface of the Earth,” said Steve Chien, principal scientist for autonomous systems in NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the video piece “Tech Know: Space Age Volcano Monitoring Network.”

Had Song and his team of researchers been around 30 years ago, perhaps the 57 people who perished on Mount St. Helens as a result of its infamous May 18 eruption might have been spared. If threat of an eruption like that were to occur today, the sensor network could provide real-time information to scientists and emergency services and people could be warned to seek safety.

Volcanic risk is rising as the population increases. Scientists need early warning systems to better predict imminent danger. The prototype system developed as a result of Song’s research accomplishes that. For the first time, global surveillance of potentially hundreds of dangerous volcanoes is possible. Educated and reliable estimates can be made about when a town needs to be evacuated to reduce the risk to life and property.

“The design and deployment experiences [on Mount St. Helens]
will help us understand challenging environments and inspire new discoveries,” said Song.

Mount St. Helens is a proving ground for future missions that may include Mars. NASA would like to use a sensor network to track meteor strikes, dust storms or Mars quakes as a virtual scientist on Earth.

Sensorweb research may also be expanded to serve environmental monitoring, smart homes, smart grid, battlefield surveillance, intelligent transportation, intelligent factories and more.

The impact of Song’s research is global as recognized by coverage in MIT Technology Review, Network World, Scientific America, New Scientist and National Geographic. He has received more than $2 million in research funding from the NSF, NASA, USGS and Boeing over the last four years. He is a 2010 recipient of an NSF CAREER award and the first WSU Vancouver faculty member to win that prestigious award. He also received the 2010 Chancellor’s Award for Research Excellence.

“The purpose of the Chancellor’s Award for Research Excellence is to recognize exceptional scholarly activity and that perfectly describes what Dr. Song has achieved,” said Hakan Gurocak, director of the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Just as Indiana Jones is leading man in several sequels to “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” watch for Song as leading man when sequels to his spider sensor network software premier in life-changing ways worldwide.

WenZhan Song, Ph.D., director of the Sensorweb Research Laboratory

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On the surface, going to a movie on a first date seems like a bad idea. You sit in a dark theater for two hours looking forward, watching and listening. But after the movie, two virtual strangers have a shared experience and a conversation starter. Suddenly the movie thing makes more sense.

That’s what the Campus Reading Project does on a much grander scale. It creates a shared experience and starts a conversation—a conversation that continues throughout the academic year.

The Campus Reading Project began in 2006. Each year a book is selected and students, faculty, staff and community members are encouraged to read it and participate in related events.

The book is given as a gift to freshmen at orientation. The title is selected by a committee for its theme. The theme complements freshman curriculum across disciplines so that students can begin to understand how those disciplines are interwoven.

Past titles have included “Asphalt Nation,” “Three Cups of Tea” and “Life of Pi.”

Campus Reading Project events are held throughout the year and are open to both the campus community and the community at large. Events have included author lectures, a real-time conversation with students in Afghanistan, a back-stage tour of the Oregon Zoo, panel discussions and so much more.

The 2010/2011 Campus Reading Project book is “A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge” by Josh Neufeld. The graphic novel tells seven true stories about people who experienced Hurricane Katrina. The novel addresses how people of different races and socioeconomic backgrounds fared differently. Through their voices, the book depicts the events surrounding the hurricane from a new and personal perspective.

The Campus Reading Project committee selected “A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge” based on many factors. The book’s themes—environmental disaster, personal stress and changes in society—correspond to courses freshmen take in environmental science, human development and sociology.

“This year’s Campus Reading Project book has the potential to engage us in new conversations, ask us to take a hard look at our society and have some fun—New Orleans style,” said Jane Cote, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs. “We’ve got great events planned, and we anticipate the book will inspire students to get creative and put some energy into organizing their own events centered around the book.”

“A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge” offers WSU Vancouver an opportunity to host events that engage the broader campus and local community. The fall event emphasized the scientific and policy perspectives of Hurricane Katrina. It also commemorated the hurricane and addressed the triumphs and challenges faced by the communities affected.

In the spring, WSU Vancouver will celebrate the spirit of New Orleans with a Mardi Gras event. Author Josh Neufeld will be the keynote speaker. Local jazz musician Devin Phillips will perform. Phillips is a former resident of New Orleans and a Hurricane Katrina survivor. He will break from his music to share his experiences in New Orleans five years ago.

True the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina has passed us by, but it’s not too late to engage with WSU Vancouver and the Campus Reading Project. Grab a copy of “A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge” and join the conversation.

To learn more about Campus Reading Project events and conversations, visit www.vancouver.wsu/community and select Campus Reading Project.
This fall a new class of Cougars has been spotted making their way to class—and they are all fewer than four feet tall.

Washington State University Vancouver’s Child Development Program Kindergarten opened Sept. 1. The private, full-day kindergarten is an expansion of the university’s successful Child Development Program, which offers early childhood education and child care to pre-schoolers ages 3–5.

Funding for the CDP Kindergarten was made possible by a gift from the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Foundation. The $1.5 million donation was the foundation’s first signature gift, and the largest gift to date for WSU Vancouver.

Tod McClaskey made his fortune in the hotel business. In 1959, McClaskey and his business partner Ed Pietz purchased the 89-room Thunderbird Motor Inn in Portland, Ore. That was the humble beginnings of the Thunderbird-Red Lion hotel chain, which became the largest privately held hotel chain west of the Mississippi by the time they sold it in 1984.

Throughout their lives, McClaskey and his wife Maxine valued children and education. They enjoyed spending time with their grandchildren and particularly liked teaching them new things such as reading.

The Tod and Maxine McClaskey Foundation was established to support the communities they loved past their lifetimes, honoring their legacy as it funds important projects throughout the Northwest, but primarily in Clark County, Wash. The foundation’s mission to support education and health fit nicely with the WSU Vancouver Child Development Program.
The newly built kindergarten classroom space in the McClaskey building on the WSU Vancouver campus offers children’s learning areas, a library and a secure entrance and playground.

The goal of the CDP Kindergarten program is to provide an innovative, whole-child, best-practice model for learning that is developmentally, individually and culturally appropriate for children aged 5–6.

The curriculum focuses on long-term project development and uses themes to provide direction and organization for learning. Children work in large and small groups. Individual instruction occurs as children work in groups or on individual assignments. Class size is limited to 18.

“WSU Vancouver’s Child Development Program fulfills Tod and Maxine McClaskey’s giving wishes. The foundation board was delighted to carry out the couple’s desire with the first signature gift supporting the CDP Kindergarten,” said Larry Ogg, president of the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Foundation.

“We are honored by the generosity of the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Family Foundation,” said Hal Dengerink, WSU Vancouver chancellor. “Their gift catapulted the expansion of our early learning program and is a permanent legacy for the McClaskey family and for WSU Vancouver.”

The CDP Kindergarten is open to all community members. Tuition is $715 per month. Financial assistance is available to qualifying families. For more information call Kathy Austin, early childhood specialist for the Child Development Program at 360-546-9722.

Join the board members of the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Foundation in growing our most valuable community resource—children. If you are interested in supporting the WSU Vancouver Child Development Program or CDP Kindergarten, call 360-546-9600 to schedule a visit and learn more about the ways you can help.
Scholarships and Service
Make a Difference

Ninety-three students at Washington State University Vancouver have experienced the importance of philanthropy first hand this year through private scholarship support from more than 400 donors. These 93 students have been awarded one or more of 132 separate awards from a combined total of $227,930 in scholarship funding for the 2010/2011 academic year.

The students who benefit from scholarships and the donors who support them will have an opportunity to meet and mingle at the Scholarship and Service Recognition Dinner, Tuesday, Oct. 5 at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver.

The Scholarship and Service Recognition Dinner is WSU Vancouver’s signature event and a follow-on to last September’s 20th anniversary celebration, which raised $120,000 to support student scholarships and campus development.

Support for scholarships from private entities has grown every year since the WSU Vancouver campus was established in 1989.

“We have been able to help a number of students stay at WSU Vancouver. These are students who might have had to delay their education or drop out of college altogether if not for the support of our donors.” said Jennifer Crooks, director of development and alumni relations. “Unfortunately, the demand for scholarship support outstrips the monies available. Students need more help.”

Roughly 75 percent of WSU Vancouver students take advantage of some form of financial aid or scholarship.

Crooks said the students’ need for financial assistance makes raising money for scholarships the number-one fundraising objective for her team.

Aside from introducing scholarship donors and recipients, the Scholarship and Service Recognition Dinner will also be a platform to present two community-based awards: the Community Partnership award, and the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion award.

Recognizing support for scholarships and presenting community-based awards at the same event may not seem like a natural fit to a casual observer.

Brenda Alling, director of marketing and communications explains it like this, “Students who earn scholarships get a leg up on finishing their degrees. Individuals with degrees go on to get jobs, raise families and contribute to the fabric of our community in countless ways. In that fashion, scholarship donors are providing an essential service to our community. And by presenting the Community Award of Distinction at the same event where we recognize scholarship donors, students are exposed to inspiring examples of commitment to the community that may motivate them to follow their own passions for service. It’s really an evening of thanking local heroes.”
WSU Vancouver established the Community Partnership award, and the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion award as part of its 20th anniversary celebration in 2009 and will present them annually going forward.

The award for Community Partnership will be given to an individual or organization whose leadership has made a significant impact on the community. The recipient will have demonstrated commitment to community partnerships, prosperity, vitality and the overall well-being within WSU Vancouver’s region—the greater Portland metropolitan and Southwest Washington geographic areas.

The first award for Community Partnership was presented to June Vining, executive director of the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) of Portland/Vancouver, Inc. Vining’s 160 local TIP volunteers provide “emotional first aid” at emergency scenes. TIP volunteers assist family members, witnesses and other bystanders who the emergency system often must leave behind.

The award for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will be given to an individual or organization whose exceptional achievement has broadly impacted equity, diversity and inclusion within WSU Vancouver’s region.

Kids on the Block was selected for the first Equity, Diversity and Inclusion award for its broad impact to these areas in our community. The organization uses puppetry to inspire children to appreciate differences; say no to all forms of prejudice; respect persons of different abilities, skills, ethnicity and religions; and honor diversity.

A call for nominations went out in the beginning of July and the deadline was Aug. 20. Any member of the community may submit a nomination. Winners are selected by a committee comprised of WSU Vancouver staff, faculty, alumni and community members.

“Connecting scholarship donors and scholarship recipients is a powerful thing,” said Crooks. “Trust me. We won’t end the evening without sharing some very meaningful smiles and tears.”

Eric (‘85, ‘87) and Elizabeth (‘89) Schneider met at Washington State University in Pullman. Both earned degrees in computer science from WSU and work at Intel, the world’s largest semiconductor chip maker. Both are grateful to WSU for their career success. And both see the value of investing locally in higher education.

“I realize the value of my education and how it prepared me for working in the real world,” said Eric. “Not all of my colleagues experienced the range of learning opportunities we had at WSU.”

Taking advantage of Intel’s corporate matching program, the Schneiders recently decided to give back by endowing an engineering and computer science scholarship at WSU Vancouver. They plan to add to the endowment annually.

“Because we both had teaching assistantships, we were able to graduate with minimal debt, which enabled us to buy a house right away. We would like to help other students do the same,” said Elizabeth.

The couple always looks forward to meeting their scholarship recipient.

“With the local campus just 30 miles away, it’s easy for us to attend events and stay involved as alumni,” said Eric.

Interested in learning more about supporting scholarships? Call 360-546-9600.
Within hours of the powerful eruption of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980, the campus of Washington State University began to be covered with volcanic ash. Classes were cancelled and people around Pullman did what they could to clean up.

Due to the chaos created by the eruption, President Glenn Terrell offered students an opportunity to end the semester with the grade they had earned up to that point and forego their finals.

Dan Harmon was a senior graduating from the College of Business that spring. He took President Terrell up on his offer and elected to finish school without taking his final finance exam. Mount St. Helens aside, Harmon’s grandfather had fallen ill and he was needed at home.

Harmon did not think twice about that decision. At least not until he decided to apply to law school. He needed a letter of recommendation from his advisor. His advisor also happened to be his finance instructor.

Harmon’s finance instructor did not support allowing students to finish school without having taken their final exams, and he refused to recommend Harmon for admission to law school.

Harmon was furious and saw his future as an attorney circling the drain. With little to lose, he picked up the phone and called President Terrell’s office. He was a little surprised when the president took his call, but he seized the opportunity to explain the problem.

President Terrell promised to look into the situation.

As a skeptical Harmon waited for a call back, President Terrell was hard at work. He looked into Harmon’s education at WSU and was pleased to discover he had been a good student. He called Harmon back and told him that based on his academic record, he would gladly write a letter of recommendation in support of his admission to law school himself.

With one act of kindness, President Terrell transformed Harmon’s life, and he never forgot his generosity.

To honor and remember President Terrell and to give a leg up to deserving students, Harmon and his wife, Kathy, established the Glenn Terrell Endowed Scholarship Fund. Over the years, the fund has grown to support 10 scholarship funds helping students from all disciplines.

One of the most recent funds the Harmons created is the Second Chance scholarship. The scholarship is for students who are within one to three semesters of graduating and, due to financial pressures, are at risk of dropping out of school.

The Harmons are transforming students’ lives and are passionate about providing opportunities for a quality education.

Dr. Terrell inspired Harmon to give back. What is your inspiration? Every alumni, donor, friend, student and parent has a story to share. Whether it is the story of why you choose to give to WSU Vancouver or what brought you to WSU Vancouver in the first place, we would like to hear it. Contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 360-546-9600 or van.alumni@vancouver.wsu.edu to share.
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“BPA and its Link to Reproductive Health”
Patricia Hunt, Ph.D., Meyer Distinguished Professor in Life and Environmental Science
in the School of Molecular Biosciences, Washington State University Pullman

Friday, December 10
“Regaining Control of the Food System”
Philip Howard, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Michigan State University
Cathy Insler, Director of Supply Chain, Burgerville

Friday, March 4
“Economic Recovery and Southwest Washington”
Scott Bailey, Regional Economist, Washington State Employment Security Department
John Nofsinger, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Finance, Washington State University Pullman

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It’s no secret that Fulbright scholarships don’t grow on trees. Since its inception in 1946, Fulbright has accumulated approximately 300,000 alumni. This year roughly 1,100 faculty and staff nationwide will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. So what are the chances that four Fulbrights are awarded at the same time at the same institution? Or that two Fulbrights are awarded in one family at the same time to the same place? Or that two Fulbrights are awarded in the course of one career? At Washington State University Vancouver that’s exactly what’s happened.

Linda Eddy

Linda Eddy, associate professor of nursing at WSU Vancouver, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at Birzeit University in Palestine.

Birzeit University is located on the outskirts of the West Bank town of Birzeit and serves about 9,000 students. It is located 12.5 miles north of Jerusalem and 4.5 miles north of Ramallah. Despite being located in the Middle East, some things about the campus should feel familiar to Eddy. It’s a young campus by university standards—the first building was completed in 1981. And it covers 200 hilltop acres that offer panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

Eddy will be teaching nursing as part of a new program at Birzeit University during the fall 2010 semester. She will be learning first-hand what it’s like to develop a nursing program from scratch. She will also mentor the nursing faculty. As of now, there are only two.

“Birzeit University is practicing a ‘grow your own faculty’ philosophy in the nursing department out of pure need. Like the United States, the Middle East faces a shortage of nursing instructors. Part of the problem at Birzeit University is access. People are not allowed to travel freely between Jerusalem and the West Bank,” said Eddy.

One quarter of Eddy’s Fulbright grant is allotted to research. Her research focuses on children with a variety of physical and developmental challenges and the families of those children. Eddy’s current work develops tools and scales that measure pain and fatigue in children with physical disabilities and examines family effects of caring for a child with special needs.

Eddy will conduct qualitative interviews with Palestinian families to uncover their strengths and challenges in serving their special-needs children.
“Some of the families I will be talking with are solving problems very creatively. I want to understand both the ways in which they are successful in coping with their child’s challenges and their lingering needs,” said Eddy.

Fulbright awards to the Middle East are very competitive according to Eddy. Her award was confirmed the first week of June, months after Fulbright Scholars headed to other countries had received confirmation. Applicants to the Middle East, like other regions, must be culturally and politically sensitive. Eddy attended a three-day orientation in Washington, D.C. for Fulbright Scholars headed to the Middle East and North Africa at the end of June.

Spending months in the Middle East is not a long-held dream of Eddy’s. It all began with a pleasure trip to Israel in the spring of ‘09. A Palestinian/American friend from Oregon Health Sciences University asked Eddy if she would be willing to meet with her friend Dr. Tamer Essawi, head of the fledgling nursing department at Birzeit University, while she was on vacation.

When Eddy agreed, Essawi seized the opportunity. He invited Eddy for a two-day visit to Birzeit and filled her time with a lecture to students on pediatric nursing, time spent working with faculty on what it means to be a professor of nursing and a lecture for area pediatricians. At the end of those two days, Essawi wanted more of what Eddy had to offer. He suggested Fulbright funding as a means of returning for a longer stay.

Eddy left for Birzeit Aug. 7. Faculty reported to campus Aug. 10 and classes began Aug. 17. She is living in faculty apartments with professors from all over the world and will return to the U.S. in December.

A self-described pacifist, Eddy has become very interested in the ancient clash of cultures between the Israelis and the Palestinians and has read everything she can get her hands on.

“I’m sure I’ll be learning more than I’ll ever be teaching,” said Eddy before her departure. “We each have talents we can share that make a difference. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to share mine. If improved health care decreases the disparities between the Israelis and the Palestinians, we will have made one small step toward a more peaceful coexistence.”

**Bonnie and Barry Hewlett**

Barry Hewlett, Ph.D., is a professor of anthropology at WSU Vancouver. His wife, Bonnie Hewlett, Ph.D., RN, is visiting professor in the department of anthropology at WSU Vancouver. Both are in Ethiopia on Fulbright Scholar grants to teach and conduct research at Hawassa University during the 2010/2011 academic year. The Hewletts are tasked with developing an anthropology department at Hawassa University. They are the first Fulbrighters assigned to the 10-year-old university. They will spend 80 percent of their time teaching and 20 percent pursuing independent research projects. Bonnie will be working on women’s life histories in narrative and Barry will be researching how children acquire medical knowledge.

Barry traveled to Africa for the first time in 1971 and began conducting field research there in 1973. He has since made more than 20 trips to the Central African Republic and other central African countries where he conducted field research and felt fortunate to live with and learn from the people. Results of Barry’s extensive research are between the covers of five books he has written or co-written.

Barry is currently on a quest to pen a sixth book and Bonnie is working on her second, which is under contract with Oxford University Press. A passion for Africa fueled Barry to go surfing online one day looking for grants or
scholarships that might enable him to teach anthropology to Africans, something he has always wanted to do. In his Internet wanderings, Barry came across the Fulbright program and Hawassa was one of very few universities in the world looking for an anthropologist so he decided to write a proposal.

He took the opportunity to Bonnie and encouraged her to apply as well. Both completed and submitted their proposals independent of each other, not sharing what they had written. They didn’t think their chances of getting the grants were very good. They never even really talked about it after they applied. They just put the whole thing out of their minds and went about their daily business.

Then one day six months later, Bonnie got an e-mail saying she had been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to Ethiopia. She rushed to Barry’s office to show him the e-mail only to discover he had gotten one too. Lucky they had both selected Ethiopia as their first choice of placement. Their second and third choices did not match up at all.

In addition to the opportunity to teach anthropology to Africans, the Hewletts are excited about the university’s location in the middle of the Rift Valley, home of the earliest members of the human family and extensive ethnic diversity.

“We are so honored to have been selected to help build the anthropology department at Hawassa University,” said Bonnie before she left. “We’ve heard Hawassa is a beautiful, modern city. We look forward to getting to know the people and establishing relationships.”

Andrew L. Giarelli
Andrew Giarelli is an adjunct professor of English at WSU Vancouver. He has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture in the Slovak Republic during the 2010/2011 academic year. Giarelli will teach undergraduate and graduate courses in American literature and American studies at Comenius University, the nation’s largest and oldest university, in the capital, Bratislava.

Since 2007 Giarelli has taught American literature, Shakespeare, non-fiction writing and technical writing at WSU Vancouver. He has also taught at Portland State University, Utah State University and New York University.

This is his second Fulbright. In 1993 he was a Fulbright professor of journalism and American studies at the University of Malta in Valletta, Malta.

His lecturing grant is titled “The American Experience: Folklore, Journalism, Literature.” He will be teaching future Slovak teachers of English and American culture in the university’s School of Education.

“I’m a teaching professor who thrives on the classroom experience, and a Fulbright is the ultimate expression of that,” Giarelli said. “You get to excite foreign students about your subject and challenge yourself in the process. Teaching in Malta 17 years ago as a Fulbrighter broadened my horizons and led to new research and writing interests. I am very fortunate to have a second opportunity.”

Fulbright
Sponsored by the United States Department of State, the Fulbright Program is America’s flagship international educational exchange program. It was established under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, and it operates in more than 155 countries. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement.
Thank you, donors!

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Nicole Mousleh, B.S. business administration (’10), was confident she made the right decision when she chose Washington State University Vancouver four years ago.

Mousleh was one of 157 students who comprised WSU Vancouver’s first freshman class when the university began serving freshmen and sophomores in the fall of 2006. She was not put off by being among the first freshmen to join the ranks of the Salmon Creek campus. She was enthusiastic about how she could get involved and make changes on campus that would forever make WSU Vancouver a great place for traditionally aged freshmen.

Today WSU Vancouver has more than 40 Registered Student Organizations, intramural sports teams, and an active student government. Mousleh served as vice president of the Associated Students of Washington State University Vancouver for the 2009-2010 academic year. With more opportunities for involvement and activities on campus, undergraduates are augmenting what they learn in the classroom and building both rich résumés and rich lives.

“I became involved as a way to give back to my campus and local community,” said Mousleh.

Giving back was a passion shared by the members of the Class of 2010. They supported innovative student-lead fundraising and special events including efforts to support Haiti relief, a 5K run to raise money for scholarships, and food and blood drives.

Peter Sterr, B.S. public affairs (’10), was the Director of Legislative Affairs for ASWSUV last year. He threw himself into organizing a rally that brought awareness to the campus, community and legislators in Olympia about the potential negative impact of looming budget cuts to higher education in the state of Washington.

These types of campus and community events are gaining momentum as WSU Vancouver grows and freshmen and sophomores have become woven into the fabric of the university.

In May 2010, WSU Vancouver graduated 768 students, 643 of whom were undergraduates. Statistically speaking, 75 percent of those graduates will remain in the region to live, work and raise their families.

Despite a gloomy economy, several members of the first four-year graduating class have already started to put their degrees into action.

Amanda Bull, B.S. social science (’10) started her career in the Clark
County Corrections Department.

Brock Carrier, B.S. management information systems ('10) is working as a project manager for Safetec.

Britny Grosz, B.S. accounting ('10) was married a week after graduation and will start working as a staff accountant at Maginnis and Carey this month.

While some graduates went straight to careers, others are leaning toward research or more education.

Elena Mahrt, B.S. biology ('10) plans to attend WSU Pullman to continue her education and get a master’s degree in zoology.

“Originally I intended to go to chiropractic school,” said Mahrt. “But my experience on campus in a research laboratory changed my mind.”

Todd Bishop, B.S. biology ('10) had a similar experience. He is applying to graduate programs.

“I want to apply to programs in clinical dietetics throughout the Pacific Northwest and become a clinical dietitian,” said Bishop.

As for Mousleh, she has been working with Chase Bank since May and looks forward to returning to her alma mater as an alumna.

“I hope to come back to campus as a resource for other student leaders and be able to share my perspectives with them. I believe giving back to my university will be important to me throughout my lifetime. WSU Vancouver feels like home,” she said.

### Facts!

Nicole Mousleh, grew up in Vancouver and graduated from Prairie High School in 2006.

Q: Why did you choose WSU Vancouver?

A: I chose WSU Vancouver for its close proximity to my home and its amazing, yet developing, academic programs.

Q: Where was your favorite place to relax on campus?

A: The Firstenburg Student Commons. I can’t count how many students I was able to meet and get to know during the many hours I spent studying in there.

Q: What did you want to be when you grew up?

A: I wanted to be a CFO of a massive company or have a show on CNN like Suze Orman.
David Williams (Vancouver, ’09) was looking for a way to instill a valuable life lesson in his 11-year-old son, Alex. He wanted to help his son understand that many kids his age don’t have the proper shoes, clothes, socks and hygiene products that he takes for granted.

One day last spring Williams received an e-mail from the WSU Vancouver office of development and alumni relations inviting him to participate in the spring Cougs in the Community project at Northwest Children’s Outreach. Volunteers were needed to collect much-needed children’s items and to organize and sort the donations for delivery to charities throughout Clark County.

Williams seized the opportunity to share a lesson and volunteered his whole family. He was inspired by the idea that it was something they could do together and with fellow alumni.

More than 30 Cougars and their family members came to Northwest Children’s Outreach in May for the sorting party. After the event, Williams sent an e-mail about his family’s experience to Erin Johnson (Vancouver, ’04 and Pullman, ’02), Cougs in the Community chair.

“Thank you for an eye-opening experience,” he wrote. “I had no idea how to teach my son that not everyone has the same opportunities in life, but with one evening at the Northwest Children’s Outreach you have done this. He was a little shy and slow to warm up, but by the time he left he had a new appreciation for the Cougar Pride he saw that night. He took away many valuable lessons from the alumni.”

After volunteering that night, Alex painted a baby bottle crimson with gray letters—WSU. He used the bottle to collect spare change. He wanted all his classmates and friends to donate to the cause he saw that night.

Coug in the Community is that inspiring. It’s a wonderful way to get involved with local non-profits that do amazing work that improves the quality of life in Southwest Washington. It’s also an easy way to volunteer a few hours of your time and meet other alumni. Events take place twice a year. In 2009/2010, more than 90 WSU alumni and friends participated.

Turns out Alex and his classmates raised $25 for Northwest Children’s Outreach with that crimson and gray baby bottle. And when Alex made the All-Star baseball team, he broke out the bottle again as a team community project. Go, Alex!

Sign up for the next Cougs in the Community project! Beach Cleanup in Clark County, Oct. 2. Visit events.vancouver.wsu.edu/ for complete information, or e-mail Lindsay Herling with questions at lherling@vancouver.wsu.edu.
Cougars Helping Cougs—This is the Beginning of a Beautiful Relationship

It began at Washington State University alumni networking events. Realtor Staci Orth (Pullman, ’02) contracted with WSU’s newly hired basketball coach, Ken Bone, to sell his house in Vancouver. Orth, who had met Julie McLaren (Pullman, ’84) at a Cougar after hours event, recommended McLaren’s moving company to relocate Bone’s family to Pullman.

More and more of these kinds of stories began surfacing at alumni gatherings and on the WSU Vancouver alumni Facebook pages.

Cougars were referring Cougars. “When I need a veterinarian, I would rather choose a Cougar veterinarian,” said Tina Vlachos (Pullman, ’02).

Another alumna said that when her family was looking for a landscaper, they chose the company whose owner mentioned he was a proud Cougar alumnus on his website.

“There was definitely a theme emerging,” said Lindsay Herling, assistant director of development and alumni relations. “Alumni were asking for a website and a brochure that listed all Cougar-owned businesses in the area.”

That is how the Cougar Business Alliance (CBA) was born last spring. Members are Cougar alumni who own or manage businesses in Southwest Washington or the Portland metropolitan area. The CBA’s objective is to find ways for alumni businesses to work together, refer one another and form partnerships.

So far more than 80 companies are represented in the CBA. Members meet once a quarter to network and hear a short presentation on a pertinent business topic. There is no membership fee.

The CBA is also a resource for WSU Vancouver students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members who are looking for Cougar goods and services in the area. Many CBA members also support alumni by offering discounts to WSU Alumni Association cardholders.

Early reports indicate that the CBA is operating as intended. When alumni started planning the spring Cougs in the Community volunteer project, they turned to the CBA. The event collected much-needed children’s items for Northwest Children’s Outreach. Alumni contacted CBA members to host collection bins. In turn, alumni visited the CBA businesses not only to drop off donations, but also to do business.
Washington State University Vancouver alumna Tayler Black, B.S. digital technology and culture ('09), counts fine arts, technology and business among her passions. Black works at the Northwest Network Office for the Veterans Health Administration as a program analyst. NW Crimson & Gray sat down with Black to find out about her life after college, and reflect on why she chose WSU Vancouver.

Q Why WSU Vancouver?
A The intimate size of the university was a major draw and, of course, the affordability of WSU Vancouver over a private school played a role in my decision.

Q What have you been doing since graduation?
A Working. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with good friends. We take advantage of the fine dining, art and shopping available in Vancouver and Portland. I just bought my first home. I am excited to start settling in and making it mine.

Q If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
A Greece. The history, art and culture inspire me. The food and wine lure me. And it’s so beautiful.

Q How do you show your Cougar Pride?
A One of the great things about WSU Vancouver is that I can keep in touch with many of my professors. I make sure to let them know when I hear of an opportunity they can share with my fellow Cougars. And after a long, hard day at work, I love slipping into my favorite Cougar sweats and settling down with a cup of coffee.

Q Are you a dog or cat person?
A Dog. They are much more engaged with you. Cats are too aloof. But when it comes to Cougs or Dawgs, I’m Cougs all the way!

Q Favorite color?
A Crimson...of course!
This year marks the 20th anniversary for the Associated Students of Washington State University Vancouver (ASWSUV). Such a significant landmark in our organization warrants exploring our past activities and new growth. On behalf of ASWSUV, it is my pleasure to share some highlights with you.

This year ASWSUV will begin with the famed back-to-school BBQ, where student organizations, departments and student media advertise available positions and activities for students and the occasional faculty member to get involved. We are also excited to maintain our reduced-price movie ticket sales, where students can purchase tickets at half cost.

ASWSUV will continue sending students to attend lectures on current topics as well as engage with community leaders at the Chancellor’s Seminar Series—an unparalleled networking opportunity.

During the legislative session last year, our director of legislative affairs was relocated to Olympia, where he lobbied state senators and representatives on issues that impact students such as accessibility to higher education. This advocacy strategy proved successful, thus we will continue this year.

To continue fulfilling our mission to advocate on behalf of our students, we recently developed a director of academic affairs position. Now we have the resources and capacity to address internal academic matters and foster communication between our students and the incoming Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Karen Schmaling.

To develop and inspire growth in civic engagement, ASWSUV has created a service project coordinator position. The coordinator will focus on organizing and developing sustainable long- and short-term projects, enabling students and alumni to engage with the many wonderful causes and organizations in Southwest Washington.

This year presents many opportunities for ASWSUV and the WSU Vancouver students to continue developing intellectually and become strong, community-oriented leaders who leave a lasting impact.

We hope you share our excitement and invite you to visit the students occupying the office of student involvement and ASWSUV.

Warm regards,
Mason O’Lennick
President, ASWSUV
Walking through Washington State University Vancouver’s campus, signs of active student life are everywhere. Balloon-embellished notices declaring upcoming involvement parties, lecture series and recreation trips line pathways. Glossy fliers advertising future club meetings fill bulletin boards. In every building, the VanCougar newspaper can be found. It informs the campus about recent happenings and open positions with KOUG Radio and the Salmon Creek Journal. In the premier student hang out, the Firstenburg Student Commons (FSC), students of all majors, backgrounds and interests can be seen and heard.

FSC is always buzzing with activity. It is a place for students to relax, take a break, meet up with friends and peruse an entertainment, scientific or news magazine. Hungry and tired from back-to-back classes, students can grab a cup of coffee and a sandwich from the café, play a game of pool or table tennis and watch their favorite show on one of the three large-screen televisions.

Within FSC lies the heart of student life. The Office of Student Involvement (OSI) is the headquarters for WSU Vancouver’s student organizations and programs, including student government, recreation program, clubs and student media entities. OSI is dedicated to student development through leadership programming, student employment and experiential learning.

The knowledgeable and helpful staff in OSI are available to answer questions, match a student’s interests to a group and support them in the process of starting something new.

Michelle McIlvoy, student involvement manager, is always eager to help students get involved and feel at home.

“We want students to feel connected to their campus. We host
events where students can make new friends, get connected to faculty and experience a sense of community. We make sure they feel like a Cougar and remember fondly their experiences here both inside and outside of the classroom,” said McIlvoy.

At WSU Vancouver, the involvement opportunities are abundant and eclectic. OSI is the best place to get active, meet like-minded students, gain leadership skills and maximize the university experience.

**Student Government**

Known as the Associated Students of WSU Vancouver (ASWSUV), the student government is a collection of student leaders who represent student needs and interests. Comprised of the Executive Staff, the Senate and the Judicial Board, ASWSUV plans trips, banquets, movie nights, giveaways and many other activities. They tackle issues that impact students and work closely with campus departments and state officials to ensure the student voice of WSU Vancouver is heard loud and clear.

ASWSUV regularly teams up with clubs and organizations to provide extra support and funding for entertaining and thought-provoking events. From passing important legislation to handing out free, finals-week goodie bags filled with snacks, Scantrons and pencils, ASWSUV is a great way for students to get involved and meet others impassioned by civic service.

Mason O’Lennick, ASWSUV president, believes student government provides a unique student life experience through advocacy, leadership and activities.

“The primary goal of student government is to advocate on behalf of our student body and make students aware of the campaigns we’re engaged in, such as fighting cuts to higher education. But we also engage directly with students through recreational trips and other fun events,” said O’Lennick.

**Recreation Program**

Stocked full of sports and outdoor equipment, the recreation program’s office is located adjacent to OSI. Here, students can find a variety of activities to fit a broad spectrum of interests, abilities and budgets.

The recreation program organizes exciting outdoor trips throughout the year that enable students to try a new sport, meet other outdoor enthusiasts and spend quality time in nature. Past trips have included white-water rafting, horseback riding, indoor and outdoor rock climbing, overnight ski trips and wind surfing lessons. Most trips take place within four hours of campus and offer students the opportunity to carpool.

In addition to organized outings, the recreation office can help students plan their own adventures. They offer affordable equipment rentals on skis, snowboards, tents, packs, mountain bikes, sleeping bags and related gear, as well as recreation guidebooks and maps.

For on-campus physical activity, students are invited to join one of the many intramural and league sports scheduled throughout each semester. Soccer, basketball and volleyball are just some of the teams that allow students to take a break from the confines of the classroom and get some exercise with other sports aficionados. Indoor workouts take place in the newly remodeled fitness center in room 13 of the Library building. The fitness center offers state-of-the-art cardio and strength-training equipment, showers and locker rooms, personal training and group-fitness classes.

Shawn Romine, student involvement specialist, sees the recreation program as a great way to deepen the WSU Vancouver experience.

“Our events enable students to meet new people and do something
they enjoy or have never done before. Recreation trips like rock climbing or white-water rafting add to the university experience. People come to school to go to class and study, but we’re also a conduit to have fun and relax,” said Romine.

**Clubs**

Registered Student Organizations (RSOs), also known as clubs, are groups created and directed by students. They provide opportunities for student leadership and group development and contribute to the campus culture. Clubs may be unique to WSU Vancouver or be local chapters of national or state organizations.

With more than 40 registered clubs already in place and the ability to start a new one at any time, the opportunities for involvement are truly endless. A sampling of some of the many clubs include the Black Student Union, Birder’s Association, Coloring Club, Law Club, Monday-Night Football Club, River Cities Anthropological Society, Social and Environmental Justice Club, Symphony Orchestra and the Women’s Empowerment Coalition.

OSI supplies clubs with an assortment of resources including computer access, free printing of flyers and numerous funding opportunities for events through ASWSUV. Past club events have included a drag show, multicultural talent showcase, Haiti relief fundraiser, movie nights and a trip to the haunted Shanghai Tunnels of Portland.

Rachel Samuelson, program coordinator, see clubs as a way for students to form meaningful bonds and feel committed to WSU Vancouver.

“It’s so fantastic to see a group of students come together over an issue they’re passionate about, spread awareness and create connections. Research has shown that the more a student gets connected to campus, the more likely they are to graduate,” said Samuelson.

**Student Media**

WSU Vancouver offers students the opportunity to express themselves in an array of media formats. The student-run newspaper, art and literary journal and radio station provide students with creative outlets and a place to connect with other artistic individuals. Documentary photography, audio engineering, book layout and production, journalism and social networking are just some of the skills students can acquire while participating with the student media outlets.

The VanCougar newspaper is the printed voice of WSU Vancouver students. Printed bi-monthly, the newspaper offers abundant opportunities for writers, editors, photographers and cartoonists to learn the journalism trade. From campus and fashion news, to student opinions, to in-depth interviews, the assorted tastes of students are represented.

The Salmon Creek Journal is the campus’ premier art and literary journal. Featuring the poetry, prose and visual art of the talented students, faculty, staff and alumni of WSU Vancouver, the journal is published at the end of each school year and premiered at a launch party. The Salmon Creek Journal offers students the opportunity to learn skills in marketing and advertising, editing, book layout, printing and event planning.

KOUG Radio gives students the opportunity to broadcast their music and thoughts 24/7. DJ, audio journalist and director positions are available for students passionate about radio. Past events have included concerts, t-shirt making parties, open mic nights, CD giveaways and carnival-style awareness campaigns. KOUG Radio features a live-broadcasting station as well as an audio-production studio for high-quality recording.

McIlvoy, who is also advisor to the student media organizations, believes involvement in student media offers an essential creative outlet and unparalleled work experience for students.

“The student media organizations allow students to tap into their internal passions and express themselves. Students involved in these leadership roles gain skills and knowledge and are exposed to networking opportunities. Learning how to problem solve, work in a team setting and communicate are the skills that will allow them to succeed in any job in the future,” said McIlvoy.
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Oct. 6
“Revealing Methods of Sonic Transformation”
lecture by Ethan Rose

Oct. 11
“Photoshop 101”
workshop by Kathi Rick

Oct. 18
“Illustrator 101”
workshop by Kathi Rick

Oct. 27
“Discount Usability Testing for Mobile Phones”
lecture by Brett Oppegaard

Nov. 13
“Final Cut 101”
workshop by Will Luers

Nov. 10
“WordPress Development 101”
workshop by Nicholas Schiller

Nov. 17
“What Makes PHP So Special?”
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September 18, 2010
Cougar Football Viewing Party
WSU vs. SMU
Dodge City Bar and Grill

October 2, 2010
Cougs in the Community
Beach Cleanup
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

October 15, 2010
Chancellor’s Seminar Series
“BPA and its Link to Reproductive Health”
Patricia Hunt, Ph.D., Washington State University Pullman
WSU Vancouver, Firstenburg Student Commons
11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.

October 16, 2010
Preview Days
9:30 a.m.

November 15–December 8, 2010
YWCA Holiday Gift Drive

November 17, 2010
Preview Days
5:30 p.m.

December 10, 2010
Chancellor’s Seminar Series
“Regaining Control of the Food System”
Philip Howard, Ph.D., Michigan State University
WSU Vancouver, Firstenburg Student Commons
11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.

March 4, 2011
Chancellor’s Seminar Series
“Economic Recovery and Southwest Washington”
Scott Bailey, Washington State Employment Security Department
John Nofsinger, Ph.D., Washington State University Pullman
WSU Vancouver, Firstenburg Student Commons
11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.

March 8, 2011
Campus Reading Project
“Celebration of New Orleans”
Josh Neufeld, author and illustrator
Devin Phillips, jazz musician and Katrina evacuee

For details visit events.vancouver.wsu.edu
Becky Ellis (06’), Clark College nursing instructor and Washington State University Vancouver alumna, has been granted tenure by the Clark College Board of Trustees.

Ellis earned her bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree from the University of Alabama in 1973.

In 2003, Ellis enrolled in the WSU Vancouver nurse educator certification program. She completed the program in 2005 and decided to take her education a step further. In 2006, she earned her master’s in nursing education.

Ellis has been teaching full-time as a Clark College nursing instructor since the fall of 2006. She represents Clark College on the student clinical placement consortium, which includes all Vancouver/Portland area health care facilities as well as college and university nursing programs. Ellis is also a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society of nursing and serves on the Clark College nursing program’s National League for Nurses Standard 6 committee.

Coug’s, share your news! Did you recently have a baby, move, start an exciting new job? We want to hear about it. Contact us, and you could be featured in the next edition of NW Crimson & Gray.

Becky Ellis, right, and her students practice in a nursing lab.

In Memoriam

JESSE McGEE
WSU Vancouver student

NASEEM SHQUEIR
B.A. ’09 business
(business administration, management information systems)

NATHAN VIGORITO
WSU Vancouver student
Legacy Square is sort of like an old-fashioned version of Twitter. Only in this case, you get 30 characters chiseled in stone to share a message or commemorate a milestone—forever.

Legacy Square was established at Washington State University Vancouver in the summer of 2009. It’s located at the patio outside the Bookie. Each brick in Legacy Square tells a story—stories about achievement, loss, memories and love.

Love?

That’s the story behind Patrick (‘07) and Heather Synon’s (‘04) brick. It says simply, “Patrick and Heather met here.”

When Patrick started attending classes at WSU Vancouver in 2004, he was a transfer student from Clark College looking to complete a four-year degree. He was assigned to a group project with Heather Christainson in a literature class. Literature homework aside, the two discovered they had taken several of the same classes at Clark College and even sat in the same row in a previous literature class.

But one group project was not enough to seal the deal. Patrick and Heather were assigned to a second group project later in the semester. With homework completed, they began dating. Patrick and Heather married in 2007.

Patrick decided there was no better way to commemorate their WSU Vancouver beginning and third wedding anniversary than with a brick in Legacy Square. He tried to keep it as a mysterious anniversary gift.

“I have one more gift for you,” Patrick told Heather on their anniversary, “but you’ll have to wait.”

As it turns out, Patrick is terrible at keeping secrets and just blurted out that he was having a brick engraved for them in Legacy Square.

Heather is from a family of Cougar alumni. She, her mother and her grandmother walk together on the WSU Vancouver campus and enjoy stopping by Legacy Square on their outings to find Patrick and Heather’s brick.

Legacy Square bricks can be purchased through the Office of Development and Alumni Relations for $500 for text and a Cougar head logo and $125 for text only. Most of the purchase is tax deductible. Get an order form online by visiting www.vancouver.wsu.edu/give and click on Legacy Square.
“My professors have all taken an interest in the work that I’m doing. They encourage me to participate not only in the classroom, but in other campus and community events. It’s been awesome!”

Aaron May
DTC major